(b) whether it is a fact that the speed of opening of Navodaya Vidyalayas has recently been slowed down; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) The Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme envisages establishment of, on an average, one Navodaya Vidyalaya in each district of the country. So far 256 Navodaya Vidyalayas have been established. The number of Navodaya Vidyalayas to be opened during the Eighth Plan period would depend on the availability of funds and suitable offers from State/UT Governments.

(b) and (c) It is true that due to financial constraints, the programme of opening of more Navodaya Vidyalayas has been slowed down.

Amount sanctioned for schemes of training and rehabilitation of women in distress

818. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount sanctioned for Schemes of Training and Rehabilitation of women in distress during the years 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 to different States in the country;

(b) the total Central grants returned by various States during the above period;

(c) what is the number of beneficiaries targetted/covered under the scheme; and

(d) what is amount out of the total grant for purchase of machines/tools/equipment under these schemes for the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (d) A Statement showing State/Union Territory wise grants released as Central Government's share towards recurring and non-recurring expenditure and the number of beneficiaries targetted during the years 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Setting of Training Centres for the Rehabilitation of Women in Distress is attached. [*See* Appendix CL, Annexure No. 44] As the Central Government's share consists of grants, the grant if utilised is not returned by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

Relaxing of visa rules to attract foreign tourists

819. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to relax visa rules to encourage foreign tourists; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the decision, if any, taken by Government in this regard and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Govt. has already made an amendment in the Registration of Foreigners Rules effective 30th March, 1989 which will enable a foreign tourist to obtain a visa for India initially for 120 days or four months as against 90 days earlier. This amendment has made it easy for a foreign tourist to avail of 120 days smooth journey in India without having to register oneself with the police.